



## Consultation on changes to fire engine deployment in the boroughs of Epsom & Ewell and Reigate & Banstead.

**Current situation:** Within the boroughs of Epsom & Ewell (E&E) and Reigate & Banstead (R&B), Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) have four fire engines; two based in Epsom and two in Reigate. We also had a formal agreement with West Sussex FRS to use their fire engine based in Horley, as this fire engine was often the quickest response to Surrey incidents in that area.

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) has decided to remove the fire engine from their Horley station in April 2013, as a result of their [Fire Redesign](#) consultation process. This means that we need to review our implementation of the Surrey FRA [Public Safety Plan \(PSP\) 2011-2020](#).

**What we considered:** Our mission is to provide a professional and well supported fire and rescue service, which reduces community risk in order to save lives, relieve suffering and protect the environment and property. This needs to continue in Horley after the relocation of the West Sussex fire engine but it must also be maintained across the rest of Surrey. Therefore we took the opportunity to try to improve our response times to other areas where it is difficult to meet our standard, for example in the Kingswood area. We have considered a range of options, which included doing nothing, relocating existing resources or funding additional resources from a range of sources and availability options.

We evaluated each option in relation to its impact on emergency response performance, cost, achievability within time and resource constraints as well as anticipated public acceptability and conformity with the principles agreed under the Surrey PSP. This options analysis, linked with our understanding of the risk profile and from our experience of providing a fire and rescue service, helps to shape our professional opinion on the most appropriate course of action.

**Our preferred option** is to create a chain of single fire engine fire stations running through the boroughs of Epsom & Ewell and Reigate & Banstead.

**Proposal 1:** Relocate one fire engine from Reigate to Horley Fire Station by agreement with West Sussex FRA on an interim basis from April 2013 whilst a more permanent second stage solution is created at a new optimal location in the Salfords area with a target date of the end of 2013.

**Proposal 2:** Relocate one fire engine from Epsom to a new optimal location in the Burgh Heath area with a target date of summer 2014.

**Rationale:** This should result in the first fire engine reaching emergencies more quickly on average than they do now and should minimise the impact on the Surrey response standard, see the table over the page. The costs which are likely to arise have been identified within the council's medium term financial planning process and the funding will be established as part of the development of the solution. This option is in accordance with the PSP principles and public opinion is being gauged through this consultation process. Some information is provided overleaf and further detail to support our proposals is available at [www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp](http://www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp).

### Have your say

Residents are being encouraged to have their say on how fire and rescue services are provided and these proposals, along with further information, are detailed in an [online questionnaire](#) which runs until 1 February 2013.

The consultation relates to the Surrey PSP which focuses on preventing emergencies occurring in the first place, ensuring that an effective and well-balanced emergency response is provided across Surrey, and that fire and rescue resources are matched to demand.

### How can I take part in the consultation process?

- By completing the online questionnaire at [www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp](http://www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp)
- By emailing comments to [psp@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:psp@surreycc.gov.uk)
- By writing to: Public Safety Plan Team, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Croydon Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0EJ
- By telephone: 03456 009 009
- By fax: 01737 222857
- SMS: 07527 182 861
- Minicom: 020 8541 9698

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on tape or in another language please contact us.

### Making a decision

We need to put the interim changes in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to ensure no adverse impact to emergency response cover in Horley. We will therefore be planning for this change while we consult with you. On 26 February 2013, we will be asking Surrey County Council's Cabinet, as Fire and Rescue Authority, to approve our proposal based on our analysis and your feedback.



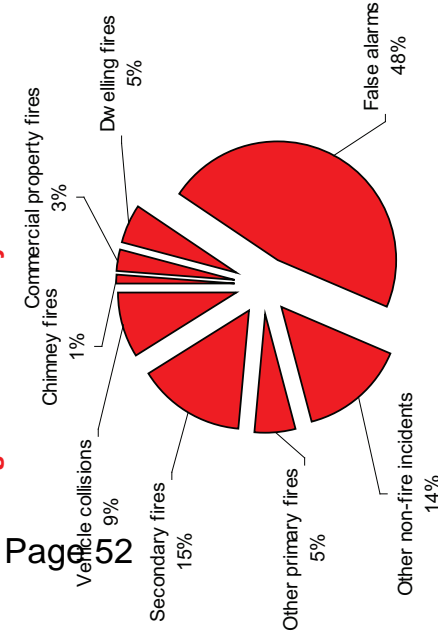
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Response Modelling<sup>1</sup> - summary

Response standard	1st response to all 2+ fire engine incidents		2nd response to all 2+ fire engine incidents		1st response to other emergencies	
	Average	%in10mins	Average	%in10mins	Average	% in 16 mins
Current situation	Surrey	07:25s	80.7%	10:03s	90.3%	98.1%
	E&E	05:16s	94.0%	06:12s	96.2%	98.5%
	R&B	08:36s	69.2%	10:21s	90.1%	97.5%
Preferred option	Surrey	07:17s	82.5%	10:27s	90.5%	98.3%
	E&E	06:07s	87.1%	11:48s	91.4%	97.7%
	R&B	07:18s	82.7%	10:35s	92.5%	98.8%

An average week in Surrey Fire and Rescue Service

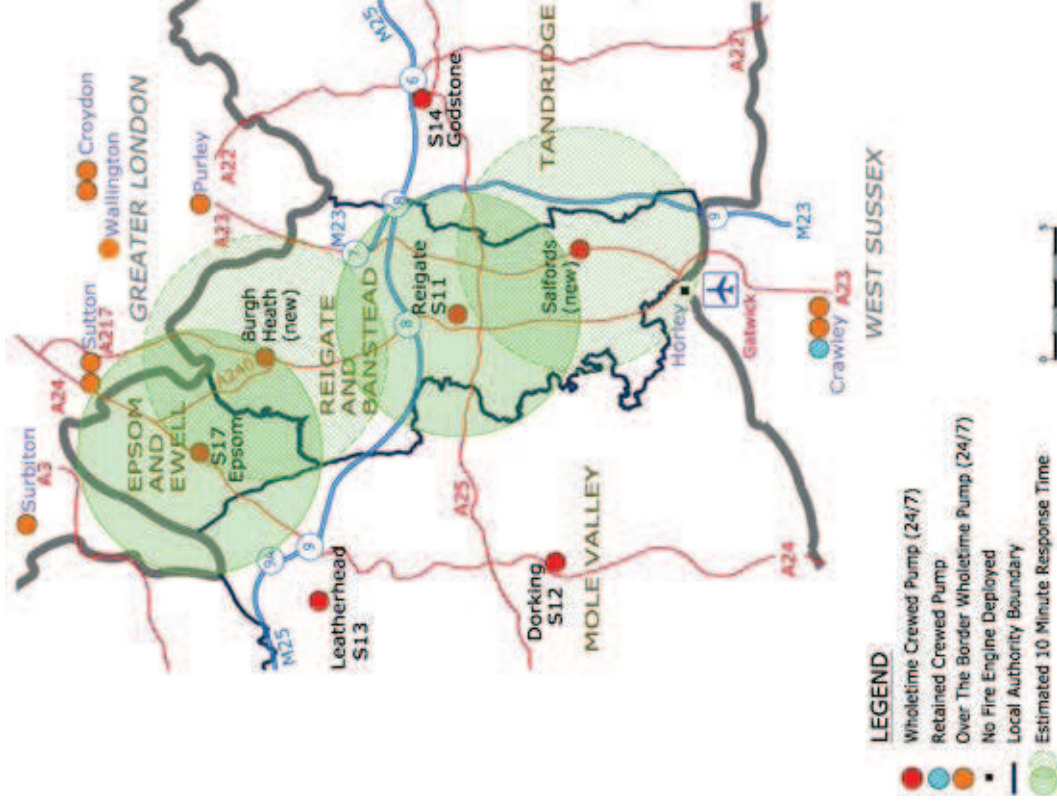
If there had been such a thing as an average week for Surrey in 2011/12, we would have had about 206 incidents, about 97 of which would have been false alarms. There would have been about 12 fires in a dwelling; 18 in other property and about 31 non-property (secondary) fires, such as rubbish or grass alight. We would have needed to deal with about 19 vehicle collisions and about 29 other incidents (special services), which could be flooding or animals trapped, etc. The fire engines would also have been used as required to standby at other locations to maintain emergency response cover across the County as required.



Drive time modelling

We have modelled<sup>2</sup> the average time to drive between fire station locations, and during the rush hour periods this can be between 25-35 minutes from Epsom to Reigate and again from Reigate to Horley. During the day these journeys average at about 20 minutes each and overnight they are about 15 minutes each. This is considerably in excess of our emergency response standard. The journey time between the new optimal location at Salfords and the Horley fire station is less than 10 minutes on average during the day and about 5 minutes at night.

The anticipated improvement in first fire engine response cover is explained below.



<sup>1</sup> For further information on emergency response modelling, visit [www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/bsp](http://www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/bsp)

<sup>2</sup> For further information on drive time modelling, visit [www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/bsp](http://www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/bsp)